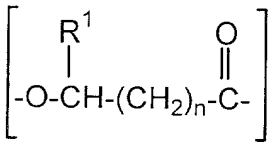
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An environmentally degradable melt spun composition comprising:

a PLA polymer or copolymer; and

a polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprising at least two randomly repeating monomer units

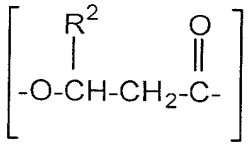
wherein a first monomer unit has structure (I)



(I)

where R^1 is H, or C1 or C2 alkyl, and n is 1 or 2; and

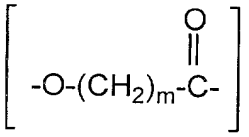
wherein a second monomer unit has structure (II)



(II)

where R^2 is a C3-C19 alkyl or C3-C19 alkenyl,

or the second monomer unit has structure (III)

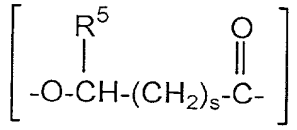


(III)

where m is from 2 to 9

wherein the composition is in the form of a fiber.

2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprises a third randomly repeating monomer having structure (IV):



(IV)

where R^5 is H, or C1-C19 alkyl or alkenyl, and s is 1 or 2, with the proviso that the third monomer is not the same as the first or second monomer.

3. The composition of Claim 1 further comprising a second polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer or copolymer.

4. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer is present in an amount of from 10% to 90% by weight of the fiber.

5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the PLA polymer or copolymer is present in an amount of from 10% to 90% by weight of the fiber.

6. The composition of Claim 1 comprising a PLA polymer and wherein the PLA polymer is crystallizable polylactic acid having a melting temperature of from 160°C to 175°C.

7. An environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber wherein at least one component has the composition of Claim 1.

8. An environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber wherein a first component is the polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer of Claim 1, and a second component is the PLA polymer or copolymer of Claim 1.

9. The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 8 wherein the fiber has two components having a sheath-core configuration wherein the first component is the sheath and the second component is the core.

10. The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 8 wherein the fiber has two components having a sheath-core configuration wherein the first component is the core and the second component is the sheath.

11. An environmentally degradable fiber produced by melt spinning a composition comprising a polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer and a PLA polymer or copolymer.

12. A nonwoven web comprising the fiber of Claim 1.

13. A nonwoven web comprising the multicomponent fiber of Claim 7.

14. A nonwoven web comprising the multicomponent fiber of Claim 8.

15. A disposable article comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 12.

16. A disposable article comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 13.

17. An environmentally degradable composition comprising a 3-hydroxybutyrate/3-hydroxyhexanoate copolymer and a PLA polymer or copolymer wherein the composition is in the form of a fiber.

18. An environmentally degradable bicomponent fiber comprising a sheath-core configuration wherein the core is a 3-hydroxybutyrate/3-hydroxyhexanoate copolymer and the sheath is a PLA polymer or copolymer.

19. A nonwoven web comprising the fiber of Claim 17.

20. A disposable article comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 19.